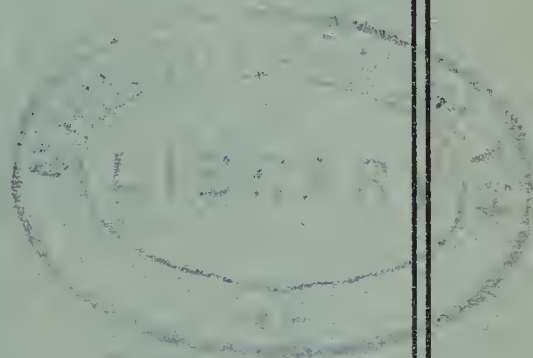


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SANDOWN-SHANKLIN

(ISLE OF WIGHT)

URBAN DISTRICT



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

1955

**Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council**

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES  
COMMITTEE, 1955-1956**

*Chairman* : E. S. Weston, Esq.

*Vice-Chairman* : D. H. Price, Esq.

*Chairman of the Council* : W. G. Gray, Esq.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council* : H. Robinson, Esq.

G. E. Boynton, Esq.                      R. J. Healey, Esq.

E. G. A. Carpenter, Esq.              F. G. Young, Esq.

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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF**

**Medical Officer of Health :**

D. WARREN BROWNE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
D.T.M. & H.

**Senior Sanitary Inspector,**

**Shops Inspector,**

**Petroleum Inspector,**

NEVILLE L. G. TUBB, D.P.A. (LOND.), M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.  
(1, 2, 3 (Hons.) and 4).

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Meat and Food Inspection Certificate of the Royal  
Sanitary Institute.
3. Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health &  
Hygiene.
4. Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary  
Institute.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 1955

*To the Chairman and Councillors,*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the year 1955. As you will be aware, the Medical Officer of Health for this period was Dr. D. Warren Browne and I have therefore confined this report to the vital statistics and commentary thereon.

### **Vital Statistics**

The Registrar General's estimate of the population rose slightly from 12,470 to 12,530 during 1955, and the total number of live births fell from 152 to 127, giving a comparative birth rate of 12·1. The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births was 7·8 which was a substantial reduction, only one stillbirth occurring as against 6 in the previous year. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs and reflects highly on the ante-natal services in the area. The general practitioners co-operate to the fullest extent with the local authority and hospital clinics. It has been established that toxæmia of pregnancy is a major cause of stillbirths and neonatal death, and although the exact causation is obscure, regular ante-natal supervision still remains the best method of prevention by early detection and treatment.

The number of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age, however, rose from 3 to 5. The causes in all cases were connected with congenital abnormalities, prematurity or mal-presentation.

The deaths from measles and whooping cough continued to be nil. Deaths from cancer of all ages rose slightly from 29 to 31, and total figures were slightly more than those for England and Wales. The notified causes of death show that only one person died from respiratory tuberculosis and none from diphtheria, poliomyelitis or conditions connected with pregnancy or childbirth. By far the largest number of deaths arose from cancer and diseases of the heart and circulation, accounting for 31 as against 29 for the previous year in the case of the former, and 111 as against 119 for the previous year in the case of the latter. The general construction of these figures remained unchanged.



There were no deaths from motor vehicle accidents, but 6 in females for all other accidents. Two of these were accidents on the railway.

### **Infectious Diseases**

There was an increase in the number of cases of measles notified from 1 to 20, and in whooping cough from 8 to 17. These figures were still low compared with those for England and Wales per 100,000 population.

There were 17 cases of food poisoning, 5 of which were admitted to hospital and one case of dysentery. The former cases arose from two outbreaks, the first involving food and the second water from a storage tank.

Two cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified and admitted to hospital, but no other forms of the disease occurred. The rates for pulmonary tuberculosis for Sandown-Shanklin and for England and Wales were 15 and 77 per 100,000 population respectively; those for non-pulmonary were nil and 11. The comparison, therefore, is an encouraging one and speaks well for the standard of housing and the milk supply.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis, either paralytic or non-paralytic, notified, which was a happy state of affairs for any holiday resort.

Broadly speaking, the figures for age at date of notification show that under the age of 10 the only notifiable diseases occurring were scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough, which are generally expected in childhood anyway. It was a clean bill of health indeed for the children of Sandown-Shanklin.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. MAXWELL BROWNE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## Statistics

## (1) GENERAL

Area of Urban District (in acres)	...	...	3,509		
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)					
according to rate book	...	...	4,973		
Rateable Value	...	...	£310,491		
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	£1,245		
		<i>Sandown</i>	<i>Shanklin</i>		
Total Hours of Sunshine during 1955		2008.9	2067.2		
	<i>Sandown</i>	<i>Shanklin</i>			
Jan.	41.6	41.8	July	299.8	306.8
Feb.	107	107.4	Aug.	245.4	255.1
Mar.	189.5	190.5	Sept.	192	200.2
Apr.	192	205.1	Oct.	150.9	158.4
May	256.5	261.1	Nov.	61	63
June	236.8	243.7	Dec.	36.4	34.1

## (2) VITAL

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	12,530	
BIRTHS	M.	F.	
No. of live legitimate births	76	48	124
No. of live illegitimate births	3	—	3
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			10·1
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	1·20
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	12·1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales			15·0
No. of legitimate stillbirths	—	1	1
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	—	—	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...		7·8
DEATHS	M.	F.	
Total No. of deaths	95	96	191
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		...	15·2
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	0·66
Comparative Death Rate	...	...	10·0
Death Rate England and Wales		...	11·7
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths)	...	...	Nil
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.	
	4	1	5
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	—	—	Nil
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	...		39·4
Death Rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	40·3
Death Rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...		Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	31

## Causes of Death

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	1 (2)	— (—)
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Syphilitic disease ... ..	1 (—)	— (—)
Diphtheria ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Measles ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1 (—)	— (—)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1 (1)	— (3)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4 (5)	— (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	— (—)	5 (2)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	2 (—)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	10 (7)	9 (9)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	— (1)	— (—)
Diabetes ... ..	1 (—)	— (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15 (13)	21 (18)
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	20 (25)	15 (16)
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2 (2)	1 (2)
Other heart disease ... ..	13 (8)	19 (30)
Other circulatory disease ... ..	3 (4)	2 (1)
Influenza ... ..	— (—)	— (1)
Pneumonia ... ..	3 (—)	5 (4)
Bronchitis ... ..	3 (2)	2 (—)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (1)	1 (—)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2 (—)	— (—)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1 (1)	— (1)
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	— (—)	1 (1)
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2 (1)	— (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	— (—)	— (1)
Congenital malformations ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9 (9)	6 (8)
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	— (1)	— (1)
All other accidents ... ..	— (1)	6 (2)
Suicide ... ..	2 (1)	1 (—)
Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (—)
ALL CAUSES ... ..	95 (85)	96 (102)

N.B.—Figures for 1954 are entered in brackets.

### Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases

Disease.			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	3	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	20	3	—
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection			—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	17	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)			—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non- Paralytic)	...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	17	5	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post- infectious)	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	1	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			2	2	—
Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)			—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	63	11	—



# Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningococcal Infection	Whooping Cough	Poliomylitis (Paralytic)	Poliomylitis (Non-Paralytic)	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid Fever	Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	2	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	8	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	—	2	1	—	20	—	—	17	—	—	17	—	—	2	—	—	1



### Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	2
(b)	Number of cases	...	...	17
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	None
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible :—			

First outbreak (5 cases). Probably due to staphylococcal toxin, but organism not isolated.

Second outbreak (12 cases). Probably due to consumption of water from storage tank in Church Hall by members of a Girls' Life Brigade Company who were camping there.

## Tuberculosis

AGE PERIODS				New Cases				Totals	Deaths				Totals
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
				M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0 and under	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1 „ „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5 „ „	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15 „ „	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20 „ „	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25 „ „	35	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35 „ „	45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
45 „ „	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
55 „ „	65	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 „ „	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
75 and over		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	...	2	1	—	—	3*	1	—	—	—	—	1	

\*This total includes 1 transfer from the mainland.

### Non-notifiable infectious diseases (Schools return) :

Chicken pox	...	...	...	...	...	5
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	212
German Measles		...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						220

### Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1955	...	17
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive		Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	... ..	Nil

TOWN HALL,  
SHANKLIN, I.W.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my third annual report on the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District and the work carried out during 1955.

This report is again set out separately by courtesy of Dr. D. Warren Browne, Medical Officer of Health during the year under review and of Dr. P. Maxwell Browne, his successor, Medical Officer of Health at the time of publication.

After twelve months working it has been found that the Housing Repairs and Rents Act has not succeeded in achieving the results which were expected.

Few landlords have attempted to fulfil the conditions regarding repair, etc. which would entitle them to an increased rent, it being felt that the maximum increase did not justify the financial outlay involved. It would appear, that bearing in mind current building costs, landlords must be assured of a better return before they are willing, or in many cases financially able, to repair and maintain existing houses to prolong their use as reasonable habitations.

Little use has been made of Improvement Grant facilities by owners of rented property. This is due to either unwillingness to comply with the conditions to which a grant is subject or to the unwillingness of tenants to pay revised rents for improvements and additional amenities.

The obligation placed on the Council by the recently published Food Hygiene Regulations will empower control of conditions relating to food hygiene in all hotels and boarding houses for the first time. In view of the high proportion of such establishments in this area, the amount of additional work involved will be very considerable.

I wish to record my appreciation of the support given me by the Public Health Committee and the Council, and the help given by my colleagues in other departments.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,  
N. L. G. TUBB,  
*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### 1. Water Supply

The Urban District can be divided into three sections regarding the main water supply. The supplies to these sections are linked and interchangeable to some extent, and the general position improves as further alterations and improvements are made by the Isle of Wight Water Board.

SANDOWN. The River Yar and Dyer's Springs at Newchurch, are the main sources of supply for this area.

SHANKLIN. Supplies are derived from the catchment areas of Cowlease, Great Woods and Wroxall, and are supplemented from the Chillerton Wells.

LUCCOMBE VILLAGE. The supply for this area is obtained from the St. Boniface Down and the area receives the supply by gravitation from the reservoir to which the water is pumped by hydraulic ram.

Apart from the foregoing main supplies, there are three known private sources where no supply from the Isle of Wight Board mains is available. Two premises are supplied from these sources, in the third instance, an isolated farm and two farm cottages are supplied from shallow wells. In all cases, except the last, domestic water purification plants have been installed, and this has been suggested as an alternative to boiling all water in the last case.

During the year 238 samples of water have been taken, some 68 more than in the previous year. The table below shows the sources from which the samples were taken and classifies the results in accordance with the Ministry of Health standards.

#### *Domestic Water Supply*

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Untreated Sources</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Private Sources</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Highly satisfactory	11	83	6	100
Satisfactory ...	24	62	11	97
Suspicious ...	6	2	1	9
Unsatisfactory ...	23	8	1	32
Totals	64	155	19	238

**Total 238**



The number of samples taken from both untreated and treated supplies has been increased at the request of the Isle of Wight Water Board, to enable a closer check to be kept both upon the raw supplies prior to treatment and the supplies after treatment.

One sample was also taken of seepage water to ascertain its nature and one sample was taken from the reservoir situated outside the Urban District, from which supplies within the District are drawn.

During the season three samples were taken from the Blue Lagoon swimming pool at Sandown, which is the only public swimming bath within the Urban District, and in all cases the result showed the water to be highly satisfactory. Residual chlorine tests were also made at the swimming pool at frequent intervals to ensure the chlorine content was within reasonable and adequate limits.

Two extracts from the Analyst's reports on samples of water from the public supply for chemical analysis are given below :—

SANDOWN. " These results indicate that this sample contains a satisfactorily low amount of organic matter derived from vegetation. There is no chemical indication of any recent sewage pollution.

The water is moderately hard and alkaline in reaction. Apart from traces of iron and zinc it is free from metallic contamination. On receipt the iron is primarily in suspension.

In my opinion this water is of satisfactory chemical quality for drinking and domestic purposes."

SHANKLIN. " This sample contains only a faint trace of organic matter derived from vegetable sources and is of high organic purity.

The water is particularly hard and is alkaline in reaction. This sample contains insignificant traces of zinc and iron but is otherwise free from metallic contaminations.

In my opinion, the sample is of satisfactory chemical, quality for drinking and domestic purposes."

## 2. Sewers and Drainage

The district is sewered to two main outfalls to the sea, one at Shanklin serving Shanklin and one at Sandown serving Lake and Sandown.

During the year a comprehensive survey was undertaken to ascertain the number and location of all premises within the Urban District, not connected to the public sewers.

This survey showed that some 148 premises were not connected, but that all has a water carriage system of drainage.

The 148 premises fall into three main areas :—

Luccombe	...	...	...	47
Whitecross and Landguard	...			43
Upper Hyde	...	...	...	52
Remainder	...	...	...	6

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148

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In all three areas, topographical features are such that sewerage cannot be achieved without pumping, making such schemes extremely costly.

One of the main purposes of the survey was to ascertain the Council's potential liabilities should a system of free or part free emptying be implemented.

A scheme was finally adopted whereby the cost of emptying is charged, less the sewerage rate for the premises, i.e.  $\text{Charge} = \text{Actual Cost} - \text{Rateable Value} \times \text{Sewerage Rate in } \pounds$ .

This scheme has the advantage of effecting some relief proportionate to the size of the property.

Some 300 visits have been made during the year in connection with the supervision and testing of drainage work except drainage of new buildings for which the Surveyor is responsible.

## 3. Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of refuse by controlled tipping on a site where reclamation of marsh land is progressing, is the responsibility of the Surveyor.

Collections are made weekly throughout the year with an increased service for certain parts of the district during the summer months.

Being a holiday resort with a heavy seasonal influx of visitors there is a very large increase in the amount of refuse during the summer.

A stage has now been reached where the provision of an additional refuse collection crew and vehicle could be justified for seasonal use, but would be uneconomical for the remainder of the year.

No complaints concerning the tip were received during the year. This has been due to the efficient use of the bulldozer and scraper purchased during 1954.

#### **4. Camping Sites**

Six applications for the use of land as a site for moveable dwellings under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act 1936, were made and licenses granted in all cases.

One of these was an application for a new site, the remaining five being renewals.

The licenses refer to five caravan sites and one for a farm site where tented camps are permitted.

The total acreage licensed is 40 acres and this provides for some 600 caravans or tents to be stationed on these sites.

All the 5 caravan sites have permanent sanitary blocks with water carriage drainage, washing facilities, showers, etc. connected to the public sewers in 4 cases and to a modern and efficient sewage disposal plant in the remaining case. All the sites also have permanent camp shops, electricity to individual caravan sites, and main water. Other amenities are also provided.

In the case of the tented site chemical closets are used and water is from a well supply.

Improvements of amenities has continued and the running of the sites has been satisfactory.

In addition to the foregoing one licence to station a moveable dwelling was granted.

#### **5. Shops**

The routine inspection of shops under the health and welfare provisions of the Shops Act has continued. Inspections in respect of Closing Hours and Sunday Trading have also continued as the Council have delegated powers as a Shops Act Authority from the Isle of Wight County Council.

#### **6. Insect Pest Control**

26 premises were disinfested during the year from insect pests not officially classified as vermin.



As in previous years flies and cockroaches were the most common sources of infestation. During the summer a large number of requests for advice and help in dealing with ant infestations were received.

Numerous complaints were also received concerning wasps nests.

The Council do not undertake disinfestation work in such cases but advice was given on methods of dealing with the nuisance.

## 7. Verminous Premises

6 premises were disinfested from vermin during the year, 4 from fleas and 2 from bed-bugs. In one case verminous bedding was compulsorily destroyed.

## 8. Rodent Control

The County Rodent Officer and staff working under the control of the Isle of Wight Joint Rodent Destruction Committee carry out the rodent control work in the district.

Complaints of rodent infestations or such found in the course of other inspections and miscellaneous complaints of a like nature e.g. bats in a roof, moles, etc. are referred to the Rodent Officer for attention.

## 9. Complaints

The number of complaints received during the year totalled 248 a slight increase over the number received in 1954. Broad classification of these complaints is :—

Sanitary Defects	...	...	49
Drainage and Sanitary Arrange-			
ments	...	...	46
Rodent Infestations	...	...	35
Insect Infestations (all)		...	32
Smoke, Grit and Fume Emission			9
Food (Quality—Soundness)	...		9
Water Supply	...	...	9
Refuse Collection and Storage			11
Offensive Odours, Accumula-			
tions and Deposits	...		41
Miscellaneous	...	...	7
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	248
			<hr/> <hr/>



### Factories Act, 1937

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1954 for the Urban District of Sandown-Shanklin in the County of the Isle of Wight.

#### PART I OF THE ACT

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	66	25	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	76	26	—	—

#### 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	—	—	—

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### 12. Milk Supply

There are five dairies in the district registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. In addition there are six premises from which milk is sold in bottles as received, four of these being caravan site shops.

Although most of the milk sold is pasteurised, there are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

T.T. raw milk and pasteurised bulk milk (sold as raw) is bottled at one premises in the area.

A small number of consumers receive their supplies direct from farms.

During the summer a number of samples found to be unsatisfactory were referred to the Area Milk Officer as they were produced at farms outside the district.

Consultations were held and an arrangement agreed whereby check sampling at the farms and at the point of delivery within the district would be carried out by the respective responsible authorities on the same milking in an endeavour to effect greater control.

The results of samples taken, including school milks are given below : —

Designation of Milk	No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		Sat.	Unsat.
		P.	F.	P.	F.		
Pasteurised ...	43	41	2	41	2	40	3
Pasteurised T.T.	18	17	1	18	—	17	1
T.T. (raw) ...	29	—	—	16	13	16	13
Raw (ungraded)	23	—	—	11	12	11	12
Totals ...	113	58	3	86	27	84	29

### 13. Ice Cream

Of the four producers registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream within the district, one only produces for retail distribution throughout the area. Two others produce for retail sale and consumption only from their own premises and one no longer manufactures.

During the year eight new registrations were granted and as a result of deletions, change of business, etc. the number of "active" registrations now stands at 144.

Apart from the two producers who manufacture solely for their own retail supply the remaining supply is obtained from five sources.

In order to avoid unnecessary duplication and overloading of laboratory facilities an arrangement has been agreed between the Island Authorities whereby sampling in each area is confined mainly to producer or depot distribution samples on pre-packed products and to loose bulk sampling in all areas.

As a result of this arrangement the number of samples taken has decreased without any reduction in the efficiency of control.

During the year 14 samples were taken :—

Grade I	...	...	...	3
Grade II	...	...	...	5
Grade III	...	...	...	5
Grade IV	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				14
				<hr/>

In addition 5 samples of Ice Lollies were taken. The results in 3 cases were satisfactory and unsatisfactory in the remaining 2. The wooden sticks were suspected as being the cause of contamination in the two unsatisfactory samples.

### 14. Slaughterhouse

The Council carried out the work of repairing, improving and equipping premises owned by them at Fort Mews, Sandown, as a small public slaughterhouse and this was opened for public use in February 1955.

Of the 16 Butchers' premises in the district 5 are owned by multiple concerns, and no use was made of the slaughterhouse by any of these firms. Of the remaining 11, only 5, together with 1 Butcher from outside the district, made use of the facilities provided.

From June onwards only two butchers continued using the slaughterhouse and the throughput dropped considerably. As a result, the Council applied to the Ministry for permission to close the public slaughterhouse as it had become uneconomic to run with an increasing amount of rate born expenditure. Permission was granted and the slaughterhouse was closed on 31st October, 1955.

During the eight months that the slaughterhouse was open, slaughtering took place on 52 days and with only two exceptions took place at times which necessitated inspection being done out of normal hours.

The total throughput for eight months was less than the normal monthly figure estimated by the Ministry Inspectors following their inspection of the premises and equipment. As a rough estimate the throughput at the slaughterhouse was less than 5% by weight of the total meat sold in the district during the same period.

Although equipped for cattle slaughter, none were slaughtered on the premises during the time the slaughterhouse was open.

#### *Animals Slaughtered*

Calves	...	...	...	...	86
Swine	...	...	...	...	178
Sheep	...	...	...	...	126
					<hr/>
					390
					<hr/>

#### *Condemnations*

Swine (heads, etc.)	...	...	66½
Swine (offal)	...	...	38½
Sheep (offal)	...	...	12
			<hr/>
			137 lbs.
			<hr/>



## **15. Licensed Premises**

Structural alterations and improvements, provision of additional sanitary accommodation and installation of modern equipment continued during the year.

The provision of improved dispense and washing up facilities in 4 cases has further enhanced the generally satisfactory standard of cleanliness and hygiene maintained by licensees.

## **16. Bakehouses**

None of the eight bakehouses operating in the district is an underground bakehouse. Of the three bakehouses where the premises are old and of insufficient size, one has ceased to produce bread and confined its output to cakes, which has effected an improvement in one respect.

The heavy seasonal increased demand with the additional temporary staff necessary, places a heavy burden on the production facilities and it is at such times that the greatest attention is required from all concerned to maintain a reasonable standard.

## **17. Food Premises and Food Hygiene**

It is typical of the constantly changing conditions of a holiday resort when premises, having been improved, become admirably suitable as food premises and then change hands, to be re-opened as other than a food business, while other premises less suitable, are opened as food premises for the first time.

The year has shown further steady progress in improvements and alterations but much still remains to be done.

The new Food Hygiene Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 were published at the end of the year. An early opinion on their importance and scope show that in this area, the number of premises to which they will apply will be at least 1,100 whereas the old law and Byelaws applied to just under 300.

The requirements of these Regulations should result in a higher standard of food hygiene, but a full assessment of their value cannot be made until they have been in operation for at least twelve months.

It will also take some considerable time with the staff available to deal with the heavy increase of inspections and administrative work necessary.

It also seems probable that the advent of new Rating Assessments and financial restrictions will retard the speed of achieving large scale improvements.

No solution to the problem of the “ human element ” of the Seasonal helper has been found. Their inexperience in food handling, and short time of employment do not enhance their interest in most cases and the insufficiency of seasonal labour further aggravates the position.

The interest of employers and certain sections of the general public has been sustained. This is shown by the increasing number of requests for talks on food hygiene and allied subjects some 15 such talks having been given during the year.

On the assumption that the “ strength of a chain lies in its weakest link ” it is to be regretted that more time and opportunity is not available for the employees, who in the main are the actual food handlers, to attend such talks.

The following classification of Food premises refers to the main business of the premises only.

There are many instances where overlapping occurs, e.g. a shop classed as a grocers, where greengrocery and/or wrapped bread and cakes are sold.

### Classification of Food Premises

Bakehouses	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	144
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	15
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	8
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	18
Grocers	...	...	...	42
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	81
Kiosks and Snack Bars	...	...	...	29
Licensed Premises (full licenses)	...	...	...	30
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	12
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	5

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14

The premises registered under the above Act and Section are :—

Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and/or Preserved Foods ... ..	18
Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice Cream ... ..	144
Total ... ..	<u>162</u>

During the year 127 visits were made to the above registered premises.

### 18. Foodstuffs Condemned as Unfit

The amounts of various foods which were condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year are given in the following tabulated statement :—

Meat—Imported ... ..	321 $\frac{1}{4}$
Home Killed ... ..	35 $\frac{3}{4}$
Offal—Imported ... ..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Meat (except Hams) ... ..	413 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned Hams ... ..	653 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned Fruit, Vegetables, Soups, etc. ...	1,775 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Fish ... ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Milk ... ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese ... ..	58
Biscuits and Cakes ... ..	184 $\frac{3}{4}$
Butter, Margarine and Lard ... ..	378 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shell Fish ... ..	211
Fresh Fish ... ..	36
Bacon ... ..	140 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sausages ... ..	55
Preserves ... ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
General Groceries ... ..	133 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ice Cream ... ..	73
Total ... ..	<u>4,785 lbs.</u>
Eggs ... ..	95

130 special visits were made for food examination of which 97 were between May-September inclusive.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) General Sanitation							Visits
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	258
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Insect Pest Control (Inspections)	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Insect Pest Control (Disinfestations)	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rag Flock	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Interviews with owners, builders, etc. on site	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
(b) Housing							
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Houses re-inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Houses re-inspected under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Filthy or verminous premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Filthy or verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Council Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Housing Application enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Preliminary Housing Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
(c) Infectious Disease							
Inquiries in cases of infectious disease and food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits re disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(d) Meat and Food Inspection							
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5



Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	44
Other Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	30
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	59
Milk Sampling Visits	...	...	...	...	123
Ice Cream Sampling Visits	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous Food Visits (including disposal of condemned food)				...	144
Laboratory Visits	...	...	...	...	80
<b>(e) Additional</b>					
Petroleum Visits	...	...	...	...	59
Heating Appliance (Regulations 1953)	...	...	...	...	4
Shops Act (Closing Hours)	...	...	...	...	101
Total	...	...	...	...	2,475

### Notices

Act	Informal		Formal	
	Served	Complied	Served	Complied
Public Health Acts ...	98	91	4	3
Housing Acts ...	—	—	—	—
Food & Drugs Acts ...	10	11	4	6
Factories Acts ...	1	1	—	—
Shops Acts ...	4	3	—	—
Totals ...	113	106	8	9

### FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1955 IN THE SANDOWN-SHANKLIN URBAN DISTRICT

Article Sampled	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Sterilised Cream ...	1	—
National Milk Loaf ...	1	—
Marmalade ...	1	—
Soupmix ...	1	—
Meat Paste ...	2	—

Orange Squash	...	...	1	—
Fish Cake	...	...	1	—
Jam	...	...	3	—
Minced Turkey in Turkey				
Stock	...	...	1	—
Butter	...	...	1	—
Ice Cream	...	...	4	—
Horseradish	...	...	1	—
Whisky	...	...	4	—
			<hr/>	
Total	...	...	22	<hr/> <hr/>

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Isle of Wight County Council (which is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Urban District) who has kindly supplied the above particulars of samples taken in the Urban District during 1955.

The sampling coverage of the area is greater than would appear from the figures as many pre-packed commodities as sold in the Sandown-Shanklin Urban District are sampled in other parts of the Island.



